

# PHOSPHATE EXPLORATION UINTAH COUNTY, UTAH

2013 - 20??

# **WORKING TOGETHER**

DIVISION OF OIL, GAS & MINING

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

NORTH AMERICAN MINE SERVICES

# Green Diamond Project Team

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  - April Abate
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- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
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## Why Explore for Phosphate Rock?

- Phosphate Rock (Rock with a high concentration of Phosphorous) is primarily used in agriculture as a component of fertilizer. N-P-K
- Concentrated Phosphorous is used for a wide variety of industrial chemicals
- Mineral Supplement for Livestock
- The United States imports most phosphate, primarily from Africa (Morocco).

# Why Explore at Diamond Mountain?



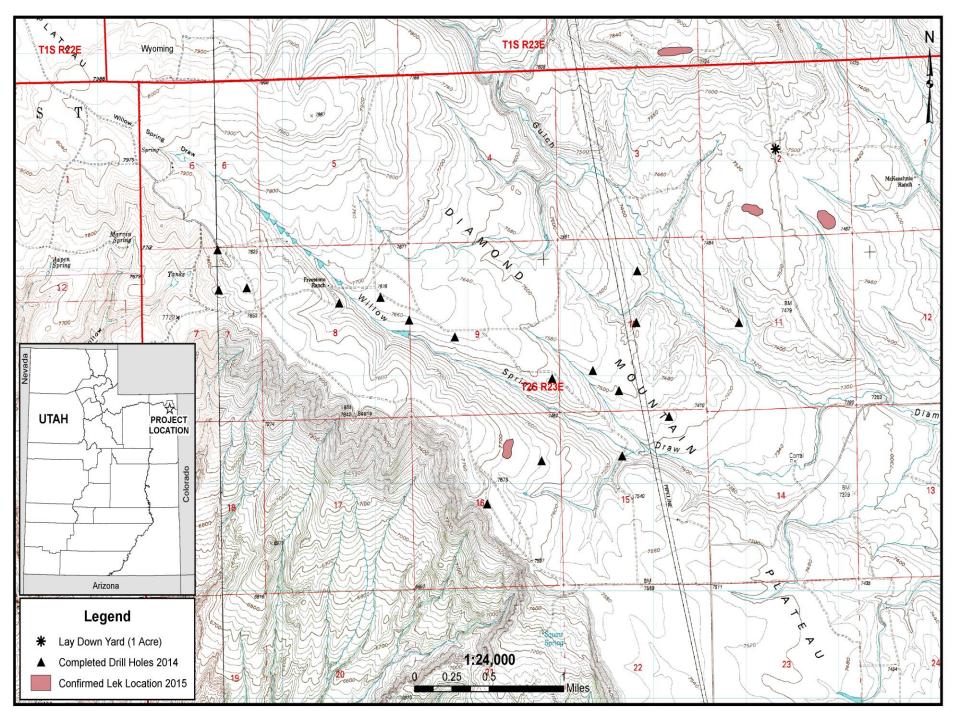
- Known Phosphate
   Resource (US Steel 1960's)
- Favorable lease opportunity for Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
- Surface land owners are in favor of profitable land development.

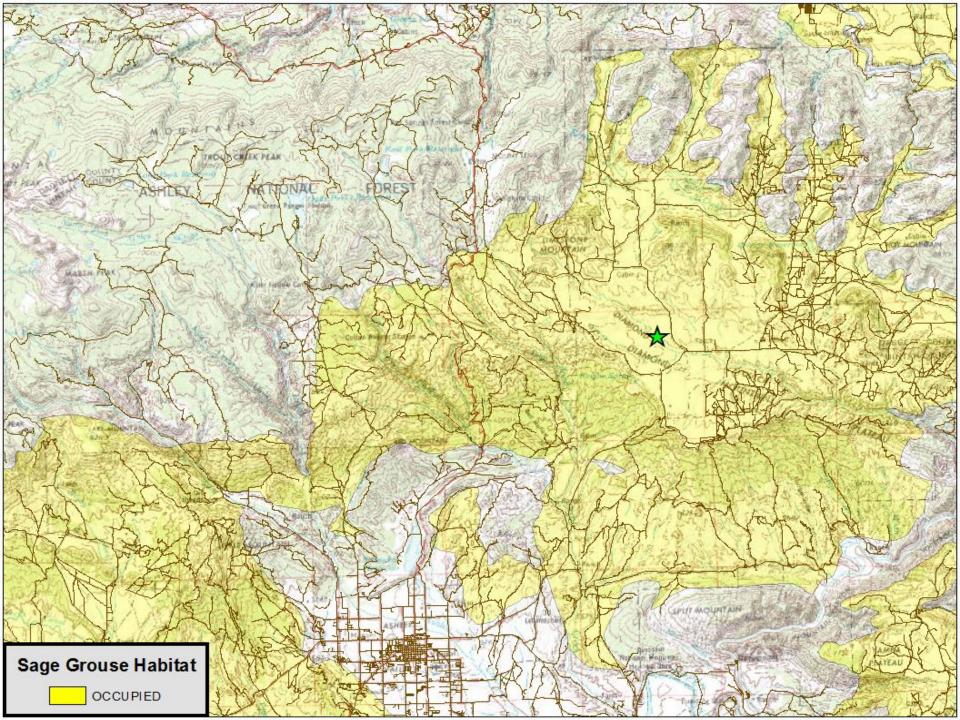
# Sage Grouse

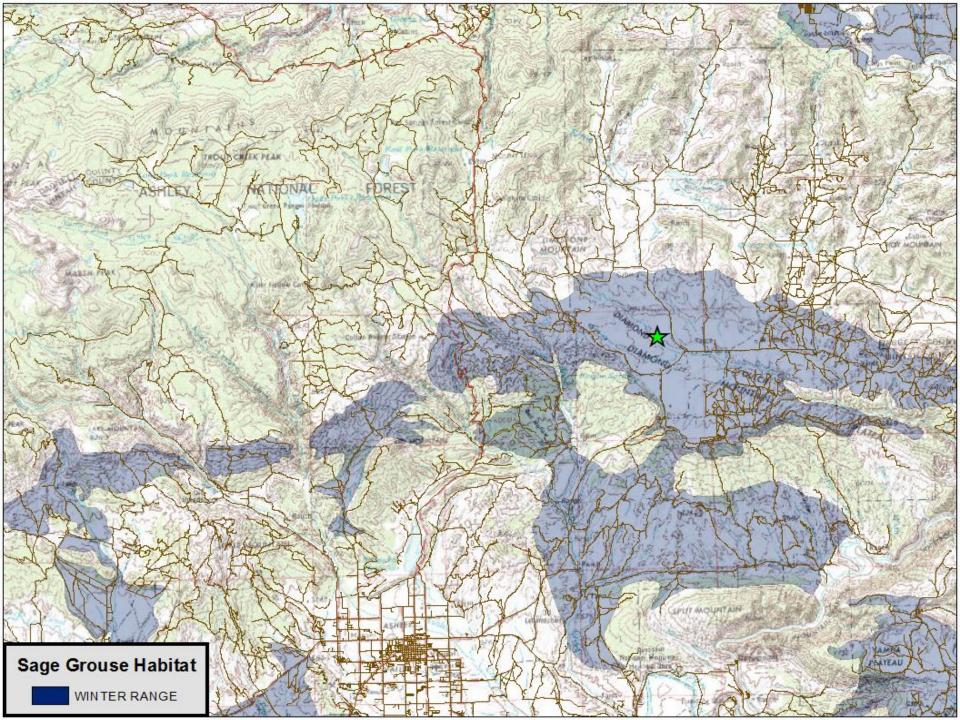
#### **Issues and Concerns**

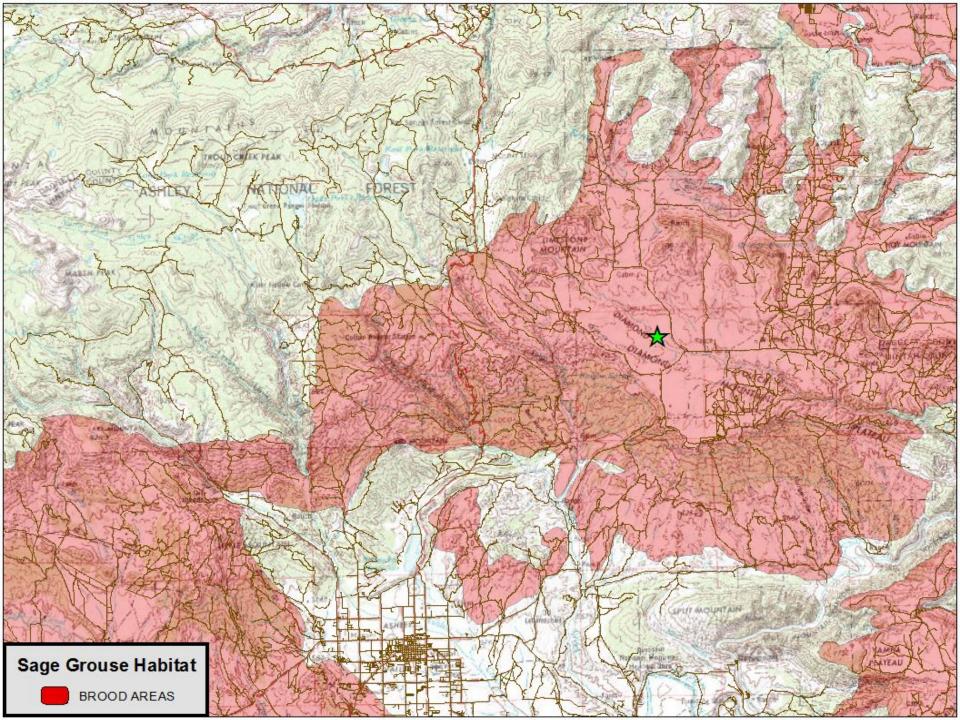
- The Project area is in one of Utah's 11 Sage Grouse Management Areas
- Mineral Drilling can disturb lek activity and nesting behavior
- Governor's Plan for the Conservation of Sage Grouse











#### **Drill Sites & Grouse Impact Mitigation**

- 33 Drill pads were scaled back to 17 for the first season
- Avoid drilling during strutting (Breeding season is April -June)
- Phase drilling begin in areas with minimal impact potential
- Avoid wet meadow areas where sagegrouse tend to nest
- Locate drill sites with minimal sagebrush
- Locate drill pads near existing roads to minimize the need for new roads
- Reclaim pads with a seed mix beneficial to sagegrouse
- Use equipment with "fat tires" in order to minimize disturbance to off-road areas.

# SEEDING DRILL SITES



# BROADCAST SEEDING, SNOW & DRAG HARROWING



# LAYDOWN YARD SEEDING



### TYPICAL DRILL SITE SEEDING





# **CONCLUSION**

- The Diamond Mountain Exploration Project is succeeding in locating Phosphate and mitigating impacts to Sagegrouse.
- The Sagegrouse population on Diamond Mountain is increasing.

- Seeding of drill sites may improve habitat in the future.
- The numbers of grouse observed on leks near drill sites have remained steady and there are no indications that drilling has impacted the population of Sagegrouse.